

**Abstract**

Protected memory locations or contents are associated with respective corresponding keys. Memory operations that alter the protected memory locations or 5 contents are denied unless the corresponding keys are provided. In one implementation, the keys are stored in a key store on an electronic device and accessible only to a memory access manager that controls access to the protected memory and contents. In order to alter a protected memory 10 location or contents, an electronic device component must first obtain the required key or keys from another source, such as a source from which data to be written to a protected memory location is received, and then provide the or each key to the memory access manager. After a memory 15 operation has been permitted or completed, any keys provided to the memory access manager by an electronic device component are rendered inaccessible, such as by deleting the keys from memory.